

SERBIA ÜBER ALLES

well, i guess any of us
who ever wondered
how our parents or grandparents
could have allowed nazi germany
to occur,

won't have to be bothered
by that question
anymore.

UN BEL DI

because my daughter's eighth-grade teachers
are having what is called an "in-service day,"
which means, in fact, an out-of-service day,

she is spending this friday home with me,
so i get up in time to take us,
on this summery day in march,
for a light lunch at a legendary cafe
near the yacht marina.

then we feed some ducks before catching
the cheap early-bird showing of
my cousin vinny, at which we share a
dessert of a box of milk duds large
enough to last us the entire show.

afterwards we drive to a shoe-store to
get her the birkenstocks she's been coveting,

but they're out of her size in green; we leave
an order and stop for dinner at norm calvin's
texas-style hole-in-the-wall barbecue rib factory.

when we get home i am smart enough
to downplay to my wife what a good day
we have had on our own. later, saying
goodnight to my little girl,

already much taller than her mother,
i say, "days like today are the favorite
days of my life," and she knows

it is true.

— Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA